

Composting Animal Carcasses at Class II Composting Facilities

What are Class II composting facilities?

In Ohio, Class II solid waste composting facilities accept only source-separated yard waste, animal wastes, agricultural wastes, food scraps, authorized bulking agents, additives, and other alternative materials, such as animal carcasses. Alternative materials require approval by the director of Ohio EPA.

Which animals can be composted at Class II composting facilities?

Most farm animals such as chickens, swine, cattle and horses can be composted at Class II facilities. However, Ohio law requires that animals to be composted are free of certain infectious diseases.

How do I start?

To register with Ohio EPA as a Class II facility, you need to complete a registration application form, including a plan view drawing of the facility. There is no cost involved in the registration. You can obtain an application form and assistance completing the form by contacting your Ohio EPA district office, or the solid waste compliance and inspection support unit at Ohio EPA's Central Office.

How do I obtain a license?

Class II composting facilities are required to obtain a license from an approved local health district. Please contact your local health district to request a solid waste composting facility license application form. If your local health district is not approved, then licensing is done through Ohio EPA. Contact your Ohio EPA district office, or the solid waste compliance and inspection support unit at Ohio EPA's Central Office. An application for a license must be received by the approved Health District or Ohio EPA at least 90 days prior to opening and/or accepting any wastes at the facility. The cost of the license will depend on the requested authorized maximum daily waste receipts (AMDWR) to be accepted at the facility. Please see the license fee table at right for license fee. A \$100.00 license application fee is applied toward the total license fee. Licenses are renewed annually.

AMDWR (Tons)	Annual license fee
12 or less	\$300
13 to 25	\$600
26 to 50	\$1,200
51 to 75	\$1,800
76 to 100	\$2,500
101 to 150	\$3,750
151 to 200	\$5,000
201 to 250	\$6,250
251 to 300	\$7,500
301 to 400	\$10,000
401 to 500	\$12,500
501 or more	\$30,000

What is financial assurance and how do I complete this requirement?

Financial assurance is a standard of financial responsibility established to assure that funds will be available for proper closure of a facility. The amount of financial assurance for a Class II composting

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facility is based on the volume of material, which includes the feedstock, curing compost, cured compost and bulking agents.

There are six financial assurance mechanisms that comply with this requirement; the mechanisms are listed in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Rule 3745-503-05. The actual wording to be used for these mechanisms is listed in OAC Rule 3745-503-20.

The financial assurance mechanism is required to be submitted with the Class II registration and funded within 90 days of submitting the facility's registration to Ohio EPA. For more information on financial assurance, please contact the financial assurance and remediation unit at Ohio EPA Central Office, (614) 644-2621.

How do I get an approval to compost dead animals?

You must submit a proposal describing the kind of animal(s) you want to compost, the source of the carcasses and amount to be accepted, composting method, and projected use for the compost product. The solid waste compliance and inspection support unit at Ohio EPA's Central Office can provide you with samples of proposals and assist you in preparing your proposal.

What is in an approval?

The approval letter specifies operating procedures, methodology of composting, feedstocks (kind of animals), bulking agents, testing requirements for the compost product, and contingency planning in the event problems occur (i.e. equipment failure, inclement weather, fire, storage problems).

What can I do with the compost?

Cured compost that meets the testing requirements of the approval letter can be sold, given away, or land applied.

What are the testing requirements for the compost?

Cured compost produced from animal carcasses must be tested, at a minimum, for metals, pathogens, foreign matter, maturity, pH, salinity, total organic carbon, and total nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (NPK). Additional tests may be required, if there are special concerns with the animal carcasses or with the bulking agents utilized.

I am already the owner and/or operator of a Class II composting facility. What do I need to do?

You only need to submit a proposal to compost animal carcasses, as explained above. Please be aware that your license cost and the financial assurance fund may change, based on the new AMDWR.

Is Ohio EPA the only agency that regulates dead animal composting?

No, both the Ohio EPA Division of Materials and Waste Management (DMWM) and the ODNR Division of Soil and Water Conservation have been directed by the legislature to address dead animal composting.

When is composting of animal carcasses regulated by ODNR?

ODNR regulates composting of animal carcasses at agricultural operations when either of the following applies:

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1. The composting is conducted by the person who raises the animals and the compost product is used in agricultural operations owned or operated by that person; or
2. The composting is conducted by the person who owns the animals, but does not raise them, and the compost product is used in agricultural operations either by a person who raises the animals or by a person who raises grain that is used to feed them.

Ohio EPA's testing requirements are applicable if the compost is distributed for use outside the agricultural operation.

More Sources of Information Regarding Composting Animal Carcasses at Class II Composting Facilities

1. Visit epa.ohio.gov/dmwm
2. Contact your local health department.
3. Contact the Ohio EPA District Offices - DMWM inspectors.
Ohio EPA District Offices:
 - Central District Office: (614) 728-3778
 - Northeast District Office: (330) 963-1200
 - Northwest District Office: (419) 352-8461
 - Southeast District Office: (740) 385-8501
 - Southwest District Office: (937) 285-6357
4. Contact Ohio EPA Central Office's Solid Waste Compliance and Inspection Support Unit at (614) 644-2621
5. For information about training for composting of swine, poultry and livestock mortalities, please contact your local OSU-Extension office.